

Fonta Flora State Trail – Progress Update

Implementation Work

As of March 2017, approximately 6.5 miles of the Fonta Flora State Trail – Lake James Section have been constructed on the north side of the lake. Engineering for approximately one mile of gravel surfaced trail has also been completed. In addition, a facility design manual that incorporates a unique architectural theme for the Fonta Flora State Trail was created and engineering and construction documents for two trailheads and associated amenities is almost finished.

Another approximately one mile section of the Fonta Flora State Trail is currently being constructed in the Waters Edge subdivision, and an easement is being surveyed and secured across the entrance to the Southpointe community. Once these sections of the Trail are complete, there will be approximately 8.5 miles of continuous trail between the Linville Access Area and Harris Whisnant Road.



Two connecting trails that total approximately 3.5 miles were also constructed this spring. The existing Mountains-to-Sea State Trail (MST) Connector was extended from its terminus to connect to the Fonta Flora State Trail. This connection to the MST will allow Fonta Flora County Park visitors to hike to the Linville Gorge and beyond. A short connector trail within the County Park will also provide visitors with a loop option from the proposed Fonta Flora County Park trailhead or the existing Linville Access Area.

Burke County plans to utilize a NC Youth Conservation Corp crew this summer to help with trail construction, management, and maintenance. This work is very important for the success and management of the Fonta Flora State Trail and will offer a broad range of activities to give NCYCC program participants between the ages of 16 and 18 a well-rounded experience.



Planning Work

Design and layout work continues for the Fonta Flora State Trail across Lake James State Park. Burke County has secured funding through the Recreational Trails Program for construction of this trail section. Construction is planned to begin in the fall/winter 2017/2018.

Burke County received notification in January for approval of STBG-DA funds administered by NCDOT in the amount of \$570,000 for the design, engineering, and permitting for a 2.3 mile section of the Fonta Flora State Trail along North Powerhouse and Cobb Roads. This section of the trail passes by residential neighborhoods on the northeast side of Lake James and is proposed to be a typical asphalt greenway. It will provide variety and a very different experience than the existing sections of the Fonta Flora State Trail.